

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SAM-01 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

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R 231150Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3016

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 916

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJ: VIEWS OF JUNTA MEMBER ON TRUCE WITH MPLA

REF: LUANDA 914

1. I TALKED ON OCTOBER 23 WITH COMMODORE LEONEL CARDOZO, THE ANGOLAN JUNTA MEMBER WHO NEGOTIATED THE TRUCE WITH MPLA PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO ON OCTOBER 21.

2. CARDOZO EMPHASIZED THAT NOWITHSTANDING EXAGGERATED PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE DOCUMENT HE SIGNED WITH NETO IS NOTHING MORE THAN A TRUCE; THE PORTUGUESE HAVE YET TO SIGN A FORMAL CEASE FIRE WITH ANY LIBERATION GROUP. ACCOUNTS IN THE LUANDA PRESS OF A NUMBER OF CONDITIONS ARE INACCURATE (LUANDA 914). THE ONLY ITEMS DISCUSSED WERE A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, A STIPULATION THAT MPLA TROOPS NOT EXPAND THEIR AREA OF OPERATIONS AND THE OPENING OF OFFICES IN ANGOLA. FORMAL CEASE FIRES WILL BE SIGNED AT A HIGHER LEVEL OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AFTER DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS. CARDOZO HOPED THAT ALL THREE LIBERATION GROUPS WOULD

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JOINTLY NEGOTIATE A CEASE FIRE, BUT REALIZED IT WAS PROBABLY AN

IMPOSSIBLE WISH. THE ONLY ADVANTAGE TO INDIVIDUAL NEGOTIATIONS, HE SAID, WAS THAT IT GAVE THE PORTUGUESE THE UPPER HAND.

2. CORDOZO SAID THAT NETO DID NOT TAKE THE LEAD IN THE DISCUSSIONS ON OCTOBER 21. AFTER A FEW OPENING REMARKS HE LEFT THE NEGOTIATIONS LARGELY TO OTHERS IN HIS DELEGATION AND PRINCIPALLY TO LUCIO LARA. COARDOZO CAME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT NETO WAS PUTTING ON AN ACT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PORTUGUESE TO SHOW THAT HE IS NOT AN AUTOCRAT.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE CHIPENDA AND ANDRADE FACTIONS, CARDOZO SAID THE JUNTA HAS NO INTENTION OF NEGOTIATING ANYTHING WITH THEM. NETO IS THE RECOGNIZED PRESIDENT OF MPLA, THE JUNTA HAS AN AGREEMENT WITH HIM AND THAT IS THE END OF IT; THE MPLA LEADERS WILL HAVE TO WORK OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES BY THEMSELVES, HE CONCLUDED. CORDOZO IS CONVINCED CHIPENDA MADE A BIG MISTAKE BY GETTING SO CLOSE TO MOBUTU AND ROBERTO AND THAT HE IS IN A VERY WEAK POSITION AT THE MOMENT. HE ADDED THAT WHEN HE WAS IN KINSHASA EARLIER THIS MONTH TO HELP NEGOTIATE A TRUCE WITH HOLDEN ROBERTO, PRESIDENT MOBUTU ASKED HIM TO SPEAK TO CHIPENDA. CARDOZO DID SO ONLY TO AVOID ANTAGONIZING MOBUTU AND HIS CONVERSATION WITH CHIPENDA WAS WITHOUT SUBSTANCE.

4. CORDOZO BELIEVES THAT ALL THREE LIBERATION GROUPS WILL OPEN OFFICES VERY QUICKLY AND STAFF THEM WITH THEIR BEST PEOPLE. NONE OF THE GROUPS HAS AGREED TO TAKE ONE OF THE VACANT MINISTERIAL SLOTS AWAITING THEM IN THE GOVERNMENT, BUT HAVE INDICATED THEY PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL NEW STATUTES ARE PUBLISHED GIVING ANGOLA GREATER AUTONOMY (LUANDA 0774). HE SAID THAT LISBON SHOULD PROMULGATE THE STATUTE IN ABOUT A MONTH.

5. AS FAR AS CARDOZO IS CONCERNED, THE MAIN THING KEEPING THE LIBERATION GROUPS APART ARE THE PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS OF THE LEADERS. HE SAID HE HAS TOLD ALL OF THEM TO PULL UP THEIR SOCKS AND GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF CREATING THE NEW, INDEPENDENT ANGOLA. NOW THAT ALL THREE GROUPS ARE ABOUT TO OPEN OFFICES IN LUANDA THINGS SHOULD GO MORE RAPIDLY, HE SAID, BUT THERE WILL BE NEW PROBLEMS. ONCE THEY SIT DOWN AROUND A TABLE IN LUANDA THE THREE GROUPS WILL SET UPON ONE ANOTHER AND THE JUNTA WILL HAVE TO REFEREE.

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